

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been examined. Claims 5, 10, and 13-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-12 are all the claims pending in the present application.

I. Formal Matters

The Examiner has not yet indicated that the drawings filed November 13, 2001 have been accepted. Such indication is respectfully requested.

II. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because some of the terms do not have clear antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 12 overcome the rejection.

III. Allowable subject matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (*See* pg. 3 of the Office Action). In response, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the elements of claim 5. Claim 6 is herein amended to include all of the elements of claim 10. Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the elements of claims 1 and 2.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for noting that claim 12 would be allowable if amended to depend from claim 7 and if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (*See* pg. 3 of the Office Action). With this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 12 into independent form to include all the

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No. 09/987,058

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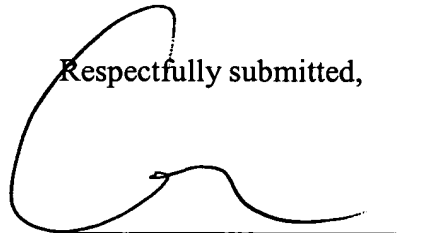
elements of claims 6 and 7. Applicant now respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, 11 and 12 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5 and 7-9 are dependent claims including all of the elements of amended independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, which, as established above, are in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant K. Rowan', written over a horizontal line.

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